

# THE REHEARSAL.

1. Why I speak so Late of the *Elections*. We ought not to *Advise* the *Electors*.
2. They are not a farthing the better for't.
3. It is only to Please our selves.
4. A sure Rule for *Elections*. Some go *Constantly* to Church, and *Constantly* side against her.
5. The Danger of *Spies*, especially in St. Stephen's Chappel.
6. A Test to Discover them.
7. Who are against *Peace*. And the little Hopes.
8. The *Few* must overcome the *Many*. Else we'r Undone.
9. Ther will be a *Reck'ning*
10. No *Peace* will be *Lasting* but what is *Just*.

WEDNESDAY, May 26. 1708.

(1.) *Country-man.*

**Y**OU come in with your nine Eggs a penny and six of them Rotten. You begin now to talk of *Elections* when they are almost over.

*Rehearsal.* Then None can say, That I Write out of any Evil Design, or to Enflame the People. I wou'd have *Elections* to be Free. And even *Advice* is a *Byass*. For it Confounds the poor Silly People, that they know not their own Minds! And a Cunning fellow may Mislead many an honest well-meaning Soul! Therefore let them take their own way—For is not that the *Wiseſt* and the *Beſt*? Is not the *Original* of *Government* always in the *Right*? And who ſhall be *Judge* over the *Original*? Who ſhall Preſume to give it *Advice*? None thruſt themſelves into the *Council* or *Cabinet* of *Princes* but who are Call'd by the *Prince*. And the *Greateſt Wiſdom* of the *Prince* is ſhew'd in the *Choice* of his *Miniſters*. And is not the *People* the *Original* and *Supreme MONARCH*? Yet we Treat him as a *Child*, and think he cannot *Govern* without our *Advice*! We muſt be *Directing* him in every thing! And will not let him have the *Choice* of his own *Representatives*! Are not we then *Saucy fellows*, to Approach our *Sovereign Lord* the *People* with ſo little *Reſpect*, and pull him by the *Sleeve*, and *Toſs* and *Tumble* him up and down, as if we were all *Jack-Fellows* well met!

(2.) Beſides I'll tell you, the time of *Elections* is the worſt time to give them *Ad-*

*vice*. For they are not then at *Leaſure* to Hear you. Wou'd you *Preach* in *Tuttle-Fields* upon an *Election Day*, to 20 or 30000 *Hollo Boys*, *Hollo*! And for ſome *Reaſonable* time before they are all *Drunk* and wou'd Forget what you ſaid to them. And they will be as little the *Better* for what I ſay to them now. For moſt of them cannot *Read*, and fewer *Underſtand*.

(3.) *Country-m.* To what *Purpose* then are all theſe *Advices* to *Electors*?

*Rehears.* Only to ſhew our *Parti*! And that we muſt ſpeak to every thing! Therefore I have put in, becauſe I wou'd not be out of *Good Company*! But I had rather ſpeak to the *Electors* for a *King* of the *Romans*, for they are but a *Few*, and are *Men* of *Senſe*. And at this time it wou'd not be of leſs *Conſequence*.

(4.) *Country-m.* Let them look to that—But I think, *Maſter*, that in your two laſt you have made the *Matter* very Plain to the *Meanest Capacity* in *England*, That for the *Security* of the *Church*, we ought not to Chufe *Difſenters*, who are *Profeſs'd Adverſaries*; nor *Low-Church-Men*, who are very *Indifferent Friends*; nor *Whiggs*, who care for no *Church*. And that keeping *Conſtantly* to the *Church* is not a ſure *Mark* of *Great Affection* to her, while they as *Conſtantly* ſide againſt her upon all *Occaſions*. *Deeds* ſhew *Men* more than *Words*. I am ſure in our own *Private Concerns* we ſhou'd *Distinguish Men* thus. And if we do it not in the *Publick*, it is becauſe our *Concern* is but *Small* there.

(5.)

5. *Rehears.* We are to look to the *Spies* that are in our *Camp*. They cou'd do us little Hurt if they were not always amongst us. And the Danger is the greater when they come into our *Churches*. Especially if any of them shou'd get in to *St. Stephen's Chappel*. They might there corrupt our *Fountain*, and if they Prevail'd, Establish Iniquity by a *Law*.

*Country-m.* But how shall we Discover such For all make *Fair Pretences*.

(6.) *Rehears.* I will put a *Test* to them against the Time comes. You will Grant me they are not *Stanch* who will not use their *Utmost Endeavours* to Compass what they *Pray* for, what the *Queen* Recommends to them, and *Prays* for Heartily herself, and has Directed all the Nation to *Pray* for, in the *Form of Thanksgiving* for the Disappointment of the late Attempt to *In-vade* her Kingdom of *Great Britain*, wherein we are Taught to *Pray* for a *Just, Lasting, and Happy Peace*, to the *Glory of God, the Honour of our Sovereign, and the Security of His Church and People*.

*Country-m.* Ay, Master, that wou'd be a *Peace* indeed! But when shall we have it? Sure ther is None who wou'd not *Pray* for such a *Peace*, and Endeavour it all that is in their *Power*.

*Rehears.* I tell you, *Country-man* ther are those who do not Desire such a *Peace*, and will Employ all their *Endeavours* to *Ob-struck* it.

*Country-m.* What! A *Just Peace*, a *Lasting Peace*, and a *Happy Peace*? Wou'd any body be against such a *Peace*?

(7.) *Rehears.* Yes, *Country-man*, and for that very Reason, because it is *Just, Lasting, and Happy* to the *Church and Nation*! They will be against a *Just Peace*, who Love *Injustice* and Prosper by it: They will be against a *Lasting Peace*, who love to Fish in Troubl'd Waters: And they will be against what is *Happy* to the *Church and Nation*, who love not the *Church*, and Sub-sist by our *Divisions*: And they will be against any *Peace* at all, who Thrive by the *War*, and put *Money* in their *Pocket*!

*Country-m.* Alas, Master, now you have quite Discourag'd me. For now I see we can have no such *Peace* till Men grow *Just*, and Prefer the *Publick Good* to their own *Private Interests*.

(8.) *Rehears.* Or till those who are for the *Good* of the *Nation* shall have the *Courage*, tho' *Fewer*, to Oppose the *Many* who Measure *Justice* by *Nothing but Interest*. And a *Few* that are in the *Right*, will in Time, if they stand to it, by the *Blessing of God*, gain the *Majority* on their side, un-

less *God* has Determin'd our *Destruction*, and as a Preparative to it has *Infatuated* us, that we see not the things which belong to our *Peace*.

(9.) *Country-m.* I have often heard that *Honesty* is the best *Policy*. And that tho' *God* suffers *Wickedness* for a time, yet He will not let it go *Unpunish'd*.

(10.) *Rehears.* There is nothing *Just* but what is according to the *Rule of Doing* to others as we wou'd have them do to us. Nor can we Expect any *Peace* to be *Lasting*, that is not Built upon the true *Foundation* of the *Law of God*, and the known *Laws of the Land*, pursuant to it. Any other *Peace* is but a *Seed-Plot* for new *Wars*. And may *God Scatter* those that Delight in *War*. And send us, in His good Time, a *Just, Lasting, and Happy Peace*, to the *Glory of His Name, the Honour of our Sovereign, and the Security of His Church and People*.

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